

## Charlie Brown Christmas

### Introduction

There is a guy who fell in love with a Japanese girl named Nene Anegasaki. They fell in love over the internet – sort of. I don't have his real name. On line he goes by SAL9000. Named after the computer in the movie and novel 2010. The computer in that movie has a girl's voice and is spoken of as female.

The guy lives in Japan. He and the girl went on a trip to Guam in November, and they got married. The following weekend they had a big reception in Tokyo.

The guy met Nene on "Love Plus". Here's the deal. Love Plus is a virtual reality thing. The girl doesn't really exist. When the guy took her to Guam, he really took his Nintendo DS.

**Here is a picture of him at the chapel where they got married**, along with the wedding invitation. Notice he has a suitcase in his hand, I think that is his wife. He wore a tux and had a minister perform the ceremony and everything. **Here is a picture of the girl he married.**

This guy is psycho. He can't differentiate reality from fantasy. We think he is psycho because he has made up his own version of reality. The problem with our being so judgmental is we do the same thing.

When Luke wrote his Gospel, he started it this way: **Luke 1:1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, <sup>2</sup>just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup>so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.**

Luke knew there were lots of rumors and stories and reports floating around in his day about Jesus. The reason he wrote this letter to Theophilus was simple – to get information from eyewitnesses, to investigate, and to get the straight truth about Jesus and the life He lived. The book was to make sure the authenticity of Jesus was not removed by those who wanted to make their own version of reality.

What is Christmas all about? So many people understand so many versions of reality when it comes to Christmas. That is why there is so much controversy. So many are looking for the real meaning of Christmas.

Why do you think so many TV shows show their characters celebrating lots of beliefs together at Christmas? Some put Kwanza and Hanukah, the Winter Solstice, and don't forget Festivus, these are put in with Christmas.

There is no reason to be confused. Christmas is a Christian holiday where we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Christ. The meaning of Christmas has gotten messed up because, since it is such a universal, well-known holiday, and since it is associated with one belief,

those who want everything to be fair think we need to open the celebration up to others, and therefore, remove the actual meaning of the holiday.

So far, I have not heard anyone complain that any holy day of Islam is unfair, and it should not be publicly celebrated. I haven't heard anyone feeling the need to change the meaning of Dwali, the Hindu festival of lights.

Let Christmas be what it is. Christians, celebrate it for what it is. Remember and celebrate the birth of your Savior, and disregard the ignorance of others.

Charles Schultz was a Christian man. He was the guy who drew the comic strip Peanuts. He died of cancer in the year 2000. **PICTURE**. He was a World War 2 vet, who, after the war was finally able to draw and get published. His first Peanuts comic strip was published in 1950. When he retired in 1999, Peanuts was in over 2600 newspapers world wide. His final strip was published the same day he died.

The Charlie Brown Christmas has always been one of my favorite Christmas videos. Charlie Brown struggled against the commercialism that threatened to take the meaning out of Christmas. In the end, he finally began to understand the real meaning of what Christmas is all about.

Charlie Brown begins by letting us know commercialism is ruining Christmas. **CLIP** (Charlie and Linus by brick wall) While he struggles against this, he is really telling us, he is struggling against depression. He knows Christmas is coming, but he still isn't happy.

## 1. The Problem

### a. We don't understand Christmas

- i. It isn't all about us
  1. At the beginning of the video, Charlie Brown is walking out of his house and says, "I know no one likes me. Why do we have to holiday season to emphasize it?"
  2. We will always have trouble with Christmas. We will always have trouble with depression. We will always have trouble with life, when we can't take the focus off ourselves.
  3. Christmas, this season, this life, is not about us.
- ii. We can't make it about us
  1. After checking his mailbox and finding nothing, Charlie Brown walks up to Violet and says, "Thanks for the Christmas card you sent me." She replies, "I didn't send you a card Charlie Brown." He yelled back, "Don't you know sarcasm when you hear it?"
  2. We want this life to be about us. We want others to be all about us. We expect, and demand God make this life easy on us, and when that doesn't happen, we just don't understand.
  3. We can't make everything about us.
  4. **Ecclesiastes 5:10 Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. <sup>11</sup>As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them?**

5. When we start to make this world all about us, we cannot be satisfied. We can never have enough.
6. **Proverbs 27:20 Death and Destruction are never satisfied, and neither are the eyes of man.**
7. We don't understand Christmas because we have trouble taking focus off ourselves. In Charlie Brown's Christmas, they called this commercialism.

#### b. Commercialism

- i. Commercialism was just a really nice way to say sin and selfishness.
  1. Sin is and always will be the problem.
  2. Charlie Brown was fighting against commercialism. It was the force that was trying to destroy Christmas by making everyone selfish – from Snoopy wanting to earn first prize in the Christmas decorating contest to everyone wanting to do their own thing in the Christmas play instead of working together.
- ii. Selfishness
  1. Sally shows us what this really looks like. **CLIP** (Sally and the Christmas letter)
  2. Selfishness is the opposite of the way we are built. It is also what all of us suffer from. No one is exempt from feeling selfish. No one is exempt from having times in our lives when we can't understand why this is happening to me.
  3. **Proverbs 30:15 The leech has two daughters. 'Give! Give!' they cry.**
  4. The leech is never satisfied with what he has. Sally, Charlie Brown's sister said it very well. "I just want what is coming to me. I want my fair share." What makes any of us think we deserve everything handed to us? It is our fair share to have a comfortable, long, uncomplicated, safe life. Where did we come up with that idea?
  5. **1 Corinthians 10:24 Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.**
  6. Selfishness tells us, "It is all about us." Selfishness want us to think everything that isn't according to what we want is not fair, and it is not right.

## 2. The Solution

### a. Not found in involvement

- i. **CLIP** (Charlie Brown with the Psychiatrist)
- ii. We won't find satisfaction in this life by covering up the problem by keeping busy. We all will slow down, and we all will have time to think and consider.
- iii. Lucy spouts off the mere fact you are aware of the problem means you are not too far gone. Then all the phobias are listed out. Maybe we can relate with Charlie Brown – after all, it isn't just a couple of things that are going wrong in our lives, it seems like *everything* is going wrong.
- iv. Like Charlie Brown, our problem isn't found in what we fear. It is found in what we don't fear.
- v. Jesus said in **Luke 12:4 "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. <sup>5</sup>But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of**

**the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.**

- vi. We don't fear God. We set Him aside. We fear death and financial loss, and lack of friendship, and all kinds of stuff, but we don't fear God.
- vii. The mere fact that we are aware of a problem should mean we look for the correct solution to the problem instead of trying to solve our dilemmas with stuff.

**b. Not found in an aluminum tree**

- i. The solution to our problem is not found in covering it up, and it isn't found in getting more stuff. To say it isn't found in an aluminum Christmas tree sounds kind of obvious, or maybe kind of dumb, but I am not talking about aluminum Christmas trees, I am talking about all those things we think will bring us fulfillment.
- ii. **CLIP** (Aluminum tree bring Christmas closer to a person)
- iii. It is amazing what we think will bring us fulfillment. The aluminum Christmas tree was what the kids said will bring Christmas closer to a person because that is what everyone else has.
- iv. What is it that we want that everyone has that we think will bring more meaning or satisfaction in this life?

**c. Found in a manger**

- i. While looking for a tree, Linus asked, "Do they still make wooden trees?" The question was answered by finding the tree. Linus stated what we all needed to hear, "It doesn't fit the modern spirit of Christmas."
- ii. What doesn't fit?
  - 1. Notice in the Christmas play there were shepherds and wise men, and the innkeeper, and sheep, and even a Christmas queen, but there was no baby Jesus. He was left out.
  - 2. Charlie Brown went in search of the lowliest, and most humble tree. He went looking for the one thing that was missing from Christmas. The tree was the opposite of commercialism. It was the opposite of the sin of selfishness. It was small, and simple. Does anyone make wooden Christmas trees anymore? No. Only God can make that kind.
  - 3. The real meaning of Christmas is found in the simple manger. The one thing that seems to be missing from every life that doesn't make sense. It is the one thing we leave out when we are more interested in us, than others.
  - 4. With Jesus in our lives, We are like Charlie Brown crying out for real meaning:
  - 5. **CLIP** (Linus reading the Christmas story.)
  - 6. The real meaning of Christmas is found in the manger. The real meaning of life is found in the same place. Jesus came to this earth to give us meaning, and purpose. He did this because He loves us and wanted to do everything He could for us.

Conclusion

Maybe instead of celebrating Christmas and disregarding the ignorance of others, we should celebrate Christmas, and help others understand what it is all about.

“To you is born this day a Savior who is Christ the Lord.” Charlie Brown found what he was looking for – he found that tree, he took it home. Jesus is here. He is what we are looking for. Will you take Him home?

I feel sorry for the guy in Tokyo. He doesn't have a handle on reality. He doesn't get what is important. He lives in a world where reality and fantasy is blurred. There are a lot of people like him. Anyone who doesn't understand who God is; anyone who has decided to live this life without God; anyone who lives this life forgetting it only lasts a while, and then ends; these people live in a world where reality and fantasy is blurred.

Life, death, God, real meaning are all reality. Don't walk away without taking the Baby Jesus home this Christmas.